

CORRESPONDENCE

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PHASES IN A SOCIETY'S EVOLUTION

To the Editor, The Eugenics Review

Sir,—Accepting the view expressed in THE EUGENICS REVIEW of March 1965 (Notes of the Quarter—Phases in a Society's Evolution) that in order to bring about world population control, with favourable differential fertilities, before it is too late, the methods of propaganda and "pressure group" are alike unsuitable and that education, research and leadership are what is needed, there remains the problem of finding the right leader or leaders.

A correspondent in *The Times* of 23rd April 1965, discussing an article by *The Times* Political Correspondent dealing with the Nuffield Report on the 1964 General Election, drew special attention to a passage in that article in which it was stated that we are moving towards the day when "the point of politics will not be the conviction of politicians about the rightness of their principles, policies or beliefs. It will be to discover the degree of prejudice or gullibility in the electors. The point of leadership will not be to lead but to follow the crowd."

If this view is correct, and under our present system of party politics there seems no reason to doubt it, it is clear that our objective can never be reached if we rely only upon the leadership provided by that system. In other words we may be sure that our "leaders", who will increasingly have to follow rather than lead the crowd, that is the electors, will never bother to interest themselves in eugenics until the crowd do so. And the crowd, if they ever begin to think about the matter at all, are more likely to favour a dysgenic dispensation than a eugenic one.

In a further Note—Eugenic Opportunity—you remark: "... all experience demonstrates the slowness of evolution in freedom in comparison with saltation under dictatorship". And indeed to bring about "an increase in contraceptive effort on a scale so grand as scarcely yet to be contemplated let alone realized", in a matter of thirty-five years, will certainly need a more rapid transition than our present Parliamentary—Democratic—Party system is likely to be capable of achieving. What then is the inference? Is it not that we should cease

to look for leadership exclusively amongst politicians, but seek it also elsewhere?

When we look around the World to-day we find dictatorships everywhere; and all of them are either under the control of military officers, or have the latter's firm support. Indeed, it is impossible to conceive a revolution in these times other than one brought about or actively supported by officers in the armed forces. Scientists, supreme amongst "thinking things" (*vide* Descartes and de Chardin) are the only possible leaders of thought in the present "noosphere". But they need an instrument to convert their thoughts into action. And where, if present political trends continue, can such an instrument be found but in the armed forces?

No sensible person is likely to want a change in our Constitution if it can be avoided. And, if politicians see the red light before it is too late, no change need ever be necessary. But if it ever should be unavoidable some form of dictatorship may be the only feasible alternative. And, if other countries are any guide, the dictator is likely to come from the armed forces. Should not an effort be made therefore, before it may be too late, to interest the officers of these forces in the subject of eugenics? How many of them now are members of the *Society*? How many Officers' Messes subscribe to THE EUGENICS REVIEW? Have any lectures by eugenic experts been given to officers serving at home or abroad? I suggest that these matters should receive the *Society's* earnest attention. For if we are ever forced by events to make a change in the Constitution would it not be prudent to ensure, as far as possible, that our new leaders will be well informed.

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ANTI-DYSTHANASIA

To the Editor, The Eugenics Review

Sir,—I am writing to you at the suggestion of Dr. Bayard Carter of the Duke Medical Center at Durham, North Carolina. He has shown considerable interest in the preparation of my thesis on Anti-Dysthanasia and he suggested that your readers may be able to assist me in materials or suggested resources for my research.